

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K - MR O'DONOHUE:CHG

APPROVED BY EA/K - MR O'DONOHUE

CU/EA - MR HITCHCOCK (DRAFT)

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P 300005Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 021472

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: VISAS FOR NORTH KOREANS

REF: (A) STATE 17996; (B) SEOUL 535

1. THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR INFORMED KOREAN EMBASSY TODAY (POL COUNSELOR KIM) THAT WE INTEND TO INFORM AMERICAN SPONSORS OF HISTORIAN CONGRESS THAT WE WILL ISSUE VISAS TO QUALIFIED NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES.

2. HE TOLD KIM THAT WE HAVE ALSO BEEN APPROACHED BY U.S. SPONSORS OF ICSU GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1978 WORLD AQUATIC CHAMPION-HIP AND 1979 WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP. IN EXPLAINING OUR INTENTION TO ISSUE VISAS ON SELECTED BASIS TO THESE EVENTS, COUNTRY DIRECTOR DREW ON POINTS CONTAINED PARA 3 REF A.

3. KIM'S INITIAL REACTION WAS CAUTIOUS. HE THOUGHT ROK WOULD FULLY UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION WITH REGARD TO ALLOWING NORTH KOREA PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC EVENTS HELD IN US. HOWEVER, HE SUSPECTED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD
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HAVE SOME QUESTION ABOUT ALLOWING NORTH KOREANS AT THE

HISTORIANS CONGRESS.

4. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE SIMILAR APPROACH TO MOFA
AS RECOMMENDED REFTEL B. IN APPROACH EMBASSY SHOULD

STRESS THAT OUR INTENTION TO ISSUE VISAS IN THESE CASES
DOES NOT REPRESENT CHANGE IN OUR GENERAL VISA POLICY
VIS-A-VIS NORTH KOREA, BUT SIMPLY REFLECTS NEED TO
MAINTAIN SUITABILITY OF U.S. FOR SITE OF SUCH CONFERENCES.

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